



County of Roanoke

FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

RICHARD E. BURCH, JR
CHIEF

Open Flames or Burning Application and Permit

Certain permits may be issued in accordance with the Statewide Fire Prevention Code Section 107.2 and Roanoke County ordinance to engage in certain business practices or activities that may present hazards to life, health, or safety. This permit is for open burning, bonfires (307.2), and for using devices that utilize open flames to remove paint from a house or for "sweating" joints in any building or structure (308.4).

Instructions: read pages one through four; then complete page one and page four, and submit for approval. When completed properly, with proper documentation if necessary, a fire code official will review the application in the order in which it was received and in a timely manner. Application must be made in writing at least ten (10) days prior to an open burning. The following information, at a minimum, must be submitted: (Please print)

Date _____ Estimated Burn Date: _____

Name of Property Owner: _____

Address: (where Material will be burned) _____

Nature and Quantity of material to be burned: _____

On-site fire extinguishing equipment provided: _____

Personnel are adequately trained to use fire extinguishing equipment: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of Owner or Applicant: _____

Owner Address: _____

Owner Phone: _____

Applicant: (sign) _____ (print) _____

(Do not write in the space below – for office use only)

Fire Official:

Permit disposition: ☐ Approved ☐ Denied Date: _____

Reason: _____

Permit fee is: \$ 0.00 Method of payment is: ☐ cash ☐ check # ☐ order # money

Initials: _____

Restrictions

There will be no open burning allowed from February 15 through April 30, except from 4PM until Midnight. (10.1-1142 Forest Fire Laws)

- A permit is required for silvicultural or range or wildlife management practices, and prevention or control of disease or pests. (307.2)
- A permit is required for the disposal of debris waste resulting from property maintenance, from the development or modification of roads and highways, parking areas, railroad tracks, pipelines, power and communication lines, building or building areas, sanitary landfills, or from any other clearing operations which may be approved by the Fire Marshal. (CRC Chapter 9, Article II, Section 9-11[a])

Extreme caution must be used to prevent the ignition of any nearby trees, foliage, or grassland, vehicles or equipment, or any other object adjacent, above, or below the area of the fire.

As an alternative, Roanoke County will pick up brush, yard trimmings, and similar material. Call for street-side pick-up and guidelines at 387-6999.

- A permit is required when open burning of debris waste or debris on the site of a local landfill is to occur in the county. (CRC Chapter 9, Article II, Section 9-11[a])
- A permit is required prior to the initial installation or reinstallation (in cases of relocation) and operation of special incineration devices. (CRC Chapter 9, Article II, Section 9-11[b])
- A permit is required for a bonfire: A bonfire is defined as an outdoor fire utilized for ceremonial purposes. (307.3.1)
 - If located ***no less than 25' (feet) from structure***: Pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height, for no more than 3 hours.
 - If located ***greater than 50' (feet) from structure***: Pile size of 5 feet or less in diameter and 5 feet or less in height, for no more than 3 hours.

Applications for open burning shall be submitted in writing at least ten (10) days before the fire is set.

- A permit is required for the utilization of a torch or flame-producing device to remove paint from any structure or for "sweating" pipe joints in any building or structure (308.4).

Allowable burning:

Open burning shall be allowed without prior notification to the Fire Marshal for recreational fires (an outdoor fire utilized to cook food for human consumption), highway safety flares, smudge pots, and similar occupational needs.

Restrictions

Requirements for open burning without a permit can be found in the *Code of the County of Roanoke*, Chapter 9, Article II and the *Statewide Fire Prevention Code*, Chapter 4.

With a permit, these guidelines must be followed:

Location: the location of any open burning shall not be less than 50 feet from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet of any structure. Beginning February 15 and ending April 30 of each year, no fires may be set within 300 feet of any woodland, brush land, or field containing dry grass or other inflammable material. Fires in approved containers shall be permitted, provided that such fires are not less than 15 feet from any structure. Fires must be contained on private property. Open burning must be a minimum of 500 feet from an occupied building on an adjacent property, unless the occupants have given prior permission. If deemed necessary or if proper separation cannot be achieved, written permission may be required from neighboring property owners. Under certain conditions and where approved, pits may be utilized for open burning. The burning must be conducted at the greatest distance practicable from highways and airfields. The property owner or the responsible party must take all reasonable care and precaution before burning.

Materials: Fuel for fires shall consist of ordinary combustible material, such as brush, stumps, logs, leaves, grass, tree trimmings, and small logs, but no material more than four inches (4") in diameter may be burned. Open burning shall not be utilized for waste disposal purposes, and it shall be minimized in size and air emissions for the intended purpose. No trash, garbage, construction debris, demolition debris, or other similar debris may be burned. The burning must be conducted to ensure the best possible combustion with a minimum of smoke being produced. The burning must not be allowed to smolder beyond the minimum period of time necessary for the destruction of the material.

The ignition source for the open burning must not include flammable or combustible liquids, plastic or rubber products, or any hazardous material.

Time of Day: all open burning must be between sunrise and midnight (must be extinguished by midnight), unless special permission is requested and granted. Property owners or their proxies must call the Roanoke County Fire and Rescue Department at 561-8100 or Dispatch office at 561-8036 each day that open burning occurs and at the commencement of burning.

Attendance: all open burning must be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished.

Wind: the effects of wind must be minimal throughout the time of burning. Air quality in the surrounding areas must not be compromised. The burning shall be conducted only when the prevailing winds are away from any city, town, or built-up area.

Fire Suppression: a dependable means of extinguishing the fire must be readily available at all times. Persons attending the fire must be trained and physically able to use the means of extinguishment. Unattended and uncontrolled fires will be extinguished by the fire department. Person(s) responsible for the open burning will be held liable for damages caused to others and for the cost of extinguishment.

Revocation: This permit may be revoked as a result of noncompliance with these restrictions or other regulations, a valid complaint concerning air quality, or changing weather conditions.

Depiction

In the space below:

-- please provide an illustration depicting the open burning site on the entire property relative to any structures, adjacent property lines, wooded area, roadways or highways, railroad tracks, pipelines, power or communication lines, or any potential hazards.

-- if planning to use candles or other open flame in an assembly or educational occupancy, please describe the event, how the open flame will be used, and depict a floor-plan of the building or area where the open flame will be utilized.

-- if planning to create a bonfire or if providing heat for outworkers, please provide an illustration depicting the location of the fire relative to any potential hazards and the property lines.

-- if removing paint from a house with a torch or flame-producing device, or if "sweating" pipe joints, describe in detail the equipment and process(es) involved in the space below.

-- if installing a special incineration device, describe the equipment, the manufacturer, and the location of the device on the property.



I have read and understand all of the restrictions for open burning.

Applicant: (sign)_____ (print)_____

Date: _____